CBIRF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

HOTZONE

Fall 2008

BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER

Greetings,

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Col Pollock, the new CBIRF Commanding Officer. As I shared upon my arrival in my Commander's Guidance, the quality of life for Marines, Sailors, and their families is one of my critical focus areas for the organization. The SgtMaj and I have been intimately involved in the transition of our families from the old to new housing on the base, barracks renovations, and a variety of different programs at the USO.

Speaking of the USO, I'd like to offer my thanks and best wishes to Suzanne for all she has done for our families, and to wish Christina the best of luck as she takes up where Suzanne has left off.

I'm excited to announce that we have hired Ramona Higgins as our Family Readiness Officer and am grateful for the quality of volunteers she has recruited to assist her. Leigh, Wanda, and Jocelyn, thank you very much for your service! Our Family Readiness Program's effectiveness will be dependent on our families' willingness to participate and contribute to our unit's quality of life. Please contact Ramona if you would like to assist in taking care of our families.

I encourage all of you to attend our Fall Family Support Day Information Fair here at the Battalion HQ. Besides food, drink, and activities for the kids, a number of organizations critical to quality of life issues will be in attendance.

Wishing you all the best for the upcoming Holiday Season and I look forward to meeting you.

Semper Fidelis,

A message from the Family Readiness Officer…

Col. John M. Pollock

Military families endure a lot. And every Marine and Sailor bears the responsibility of ensuring their family is well-prepared for any and every event that comes their way.

Family readiness is as important as combat readiness. It's the ability of each the Marines and Sailors, and their family members, to balance their home life, career, and mission events.

We provide deployment support to our active duty's family members. We're here to communicate official Command information when it's needed. And we'll help guide you to the necessary resources when you need it.

Balancing is not an easy task. But with support, sometimes the balance can go smoother. We want to be a support in helping make your lives a little less complicated.

The Family Readiness Team's contact information is listed right on the front of the newsletter. Call us when you need us, and we'll do our best to help.

Warm Regards,

Ramona

COMMANDING OFFICER
Col John M. Pollock

BATTALION SGTMAJ
SgtMaj Christopher Harper

FAMILY READINESS OFFICER
Ramona Higgins
(301) 744-5025 (office)
(240) 427-7812 (cell)

H&S COMPANY
MSgt Willis Shifflet
(301) 744-1080

ALPHA COMPANY
1st Sgt William Frye
(301) 744-1096

BRAVO COMPANY
1st Sgt Ramona Goodloe
(301) 744-2041

DEPUTY FAMILY READINESS OFFICER
Capt Marc Cole
301-744-2031

CBIRF EDUCATIONAL CORNER

A representative from the NDW, Navy College Office will be available from 1100-1400 at the Indian Head base gym (bldg. D328) to provide guidance to our Sailors and Marines and their family members seeking to further their education. The representative will answer your questions concerning TA, transcripts, course selection, and college programs.

She will come to Indian Head twice a month, (2nd and 4th Thursday) but a lot depends on the amount of participation from our Sailors and Marines and their spouses. For additional info/questions you may contact the CBIRF Education Officer, Chief Pieper, USN at (301) 744-2088/17.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The members of your CBIRF Religious Ministry Team are here to facilitate your religious needs and requirements. Our office is located inside the CBIRF compound on the second deck. Appointments are available upon request by calling (301) 744-2088/2017.

We also assist in the following areas:

Marriage Preparation

Marri mily

Counseling/Referral

Baptism

Pastoral Counseling

Worship

Liturgical Requests

In addition we have information for over 121 places of worship in the Indian Head, Maryland area. And know that we always welcome your comments and suggestions. Thanks for your prayers and support!

CBIRF'S HOLIDAY PARTY 2008

Chemical Biological Incident Response Force
will be hosting a

HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 18th 2008.

More information will be passed soon!!!

ALPHA COMPANY

Company A began the month of October with a change of command ceremony in which Capt Matthew Rhoades relinquished command to Capt Kevin Misner. Capt Misner has been in the Battalion since August 2006 and has been serving in the capacity of the Battalion S-4 since his arrival. Capt Rhoades has been reassigned as the Future Operations Officer within the Battalion S-3. The Company leadership now consists of the following:

Company Commander…….Capt Kevin Misner, 301-744-2033
Company Executive Officer…….CWO2 Joshua Nebelsiek
Company First Sergeant….1stSgt William Frye, 301-744-1096
Company Gunnery Sergeant……GySgt Micky Davis

Shortly after conducting Initial Response Force (IRF) turnover and assuming this responsibility for October, the company began training in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP). The MCMAP program focuses on basic hand-to-hand combat moves with the goal of properly executing the move when one is to the point of physical exhaustion. MCMAP is broken down in five belt levels from lowest to highest; Tan, Gray, Green, Brown and Black. With the Company having already obtained the level of Tan belt, the goal is to qualify our infantry Marines to Green belt level while our supporting arms Marines are qualified to Gray belt level.

Company A had nine Cpl's attend the Corporals Course from 1-17 October. This was the first Corporals Course that was entirely run by CBIRF. Several of our sergeants served as instructors and mentors to the corporals and special thanks are extended to them for putting in the time to mold these young Marines and preparing them to be the future leaders. The graduates from Company A were Cpl Agudelo, Cpl Harper, Cpl Mahabub, Cpl Gualandi, Cpl Milo, Cpl Aguilar, Cpl Bolden, Cpl Adams and Cpl Yang.

The Battalion is gearing up to celebrate the 233rd birthday of the Marine Corps at [illegible] AFB on Friday, 7 November 2008. Ad[illegible], the Marine Corps birthday leads us into the often hectic holiday season. Our company will enjoy our holiday leave block from 14 November to 1 December. The company will return to st[illegible] IRF duty in December.

I'd like to send a congratulations out to the following families on the birth of their new babies: Sgt. Alba and his wife Rebecca, HM2 Dare and his wife Ashley, and Sgt. Prosper and his wife Gina.

BRAVO COMPANY

Bravo Company Families:

This is my first letter to you as Bravo Co. Commander. It has been a fast paced learning experience for all of us here in Bravo Co. since I came on board in late June. Bravo Company has completed field training evolutions, multiple rifle/pistol ranges, a trip to Canada, and a long stint on the IRF (47 day). The Marines and Sailors of Bravo Company have worked diligently and performed tremendously throughout that busy period.

Bravo Company has seen Sgt. Ward, Sgt. Heath, and Sgt. Garrett graduate Sergeants Course. Sgt. Garrett was the class Honor Graduate. Bravo also saw Cpls Magallanes, Byrne, Corey, Jefferson, Lenfest, Oliveras, Rivera, Sherman, and Wheeler graduate from CBIRF's first internally run Corporals Course.

We are coming up on the holiday season. The Marine Corps Ball is in early November as well as Thanksgiving at the end of the month. I want you all to have safe and pleasant holidays. Bravo Company Block leave period is scheduled for 19 Dec – 4 Jan. This a set period for you and your Marines and Sailors to take some much deserved time away and leave. The New Year will see a very hectic and busy schedule. CBIRF will be involved in the upcoming Inauguration and State of the Union Address from our new president. There will be long hours and days away, so it is important to take full advantage of the Block Leave period.

I look forward to meeting many of you at some the upcoming events. There is a new Family readiness Officer (FRO) at CBIRF. Mrs. Ramona Higgins is our new, full-time FRO. Mrs. [illegible] the point of contact for Key Volunteer at CBIRF. I am glad that Bravo Company Marines and Sailors have the strong family support that they do. It is your support and patience that allows us to

H&S COMPANY

To the families of Headquarters and Service Company,

Let me first begin by introducing myself. I am Major Charles T. Atwood and I am the new Headquarters and Services Company Commander. I have been here at CBIRF for two years and have held various jobs. I am looking forward to the challenges this one will present but more so, looking forward to getting to know the families of the Marines and Sailors of H&S. Assisting me in my duties are MSgt Shifflett who is taking over as Company 1st Sgt for 1st Sgt Frye and GySgt Woods who is taking over Company Gunny for MSgt Snyder. The first opportunity to meet most of you will be the Family Readiness Day on Nov 20th. I highly encourage all of the Marines and Sailors within H&S Company to attend with or without their spouses.

The holiday season is upon us. With that being said, I encourage all to take leave and spend some quality time with your families. A reminder to all! The holiday season is not a reason to drink and drive. We are fortunate to get plenty of days off during these upcoming months. Lets make sure we conduct ourselves in a responsible manner.

Upcoming events

Presidential Inauguration

State of the Union

I would like to welcome all new joins aboard. The key volunteer network is open to anyone that would like to join to stay updated with information involving your loved ones.

Major Charles T. Atwood

The ***New Family Readiness Program*** would like to invite our CBIRF family members to volunteer for our group.

If you have the time, we can certainly use the help!

If you're good at designing flyers, working with Excel spreadsheets, planning events, if you have good people skills and know how to use them, or if you'd like to help with mailings, we'd love to have you on board.

Our program is new and we can use your help with getting it off the ground.

Whether you've done volunteering before, or would be volunteering for the first time, we would enjoy having you be a part of the team.

Please contact any of us listed below and let us know!

Capt. Marc Cole… 301-728-207[illegible]

RPC Pieper…301-744-2088

Ramona Higgins…301-744-5025

EVENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CBIRF Fall Family Support Day

Informational Fair

Thursday, November 20th, 2008

5pm-7pm

Bldg 901 at the B.A.R.

"Pot Luck" Please bring a dish of food to share
(enough for your family, plus a few more
should be plenty. Folks from Alpha and H&S Co. can bring
An entrée or side dish. Bravo Co can bring dessert.)

Kids are welcome!

Drinks will be supplied

There will be a wealth of information and resources available from multiple vendors.

Call 301-744-5025 or email ramona.higgins@usmc.mil for more information.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM MARINE AND FAMILY SERVICES HENDERSON HALL 2008

Marine and Family Services at Henderson Hall is sponsoring the Adopt-A-Family Program. This program is designed to help Marine families E-5 and below during the holiday season whose children would otherwise not receive gifts due to financial hardship. The Program matches volunteer sponsors with Marine families. Volunteer sponsors may be individuals, families, or work sections.

If you wish to adopt a family
Those who wish to adopt a family must submit a sponsorship form no later than Friday, November 21, 2008. Once a family has been assigned to a sponsor, a wish list of gifts for the children will be provided to the sponsor; other personal information will be kept confidential. Volunteer sponsors will be contacted by Wednesday December 3, 2008.

If you wish to nominate or self-nominate a family
Marine families E-5 and below may be considered for adoption. Marines may nominate themselves by contacting their supervisor in their section, or Marine and Family Services directly. All applications must be turned in no later than Friday, November 21, 2008, to Marine and Family Services, Henderson Hall. Applications also may be faxed to 703-614-7209
(Attn: Billie Kochara).

For questions, contact Ramona Higgins at 301-744-5025
or RPC Pieper at 301-744-2088

Important Phone Numbers

Relocation Assistance 703-614-7202
General Counseling 703-614-7204
Exceptional Family Member 703-614-7200
Children, Youth, & Teens 703-614-7332
New Parent Support 703-614-7208
Military Life Consultants 703-650-8435
Military One Source 800-342-9647

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET PROGRAM

MARINE & FAMILY SERVICES HENDERSON HALL 2008

Marine and Family Services (MFS) at Henderson Hall is sponsoring the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program once again the year! The Program will be assisting Marine families, E-5 and below, who are undergoing a financial Hardship. The Food Basket will be in the form of a gift certificate to the Commissary in order for families to select food items of their choice for the Thanksgiving meal. Family Readiness Officers (FROs) or senior Marines can nominate Marines in their section or Marines may nominate themselves.

Application forms must be filled out and returned to MFS no later than 14 November 2008. The Marine must be available to pick up the gift certificate at the Church on base the week of 17 November 2008.

Contact Ramona Higgins at 301-744-5025 or